

Apple Barrel

The Journal of the Houston Area Apple Users Group

September 2011

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Meet OS X Lion Saturday, September 17th

The latest version of OS X, 10.7 "Lion", is now available. Are you interested in finding out what's "under the hood"? Curious about the new features? Concerned about possible "gotchas"?

Dreux Ste. Marie will be at the Main Meeting to fill us in on Apple's newest "cat".

Because Rice Ave. will be closed for the Fall Fever Fun Run, we have had to adjust the start time of our meeting.

The SIGs will start at **10am** and the Main Presentation begins at 11:15. We'll see you there on the 17th!

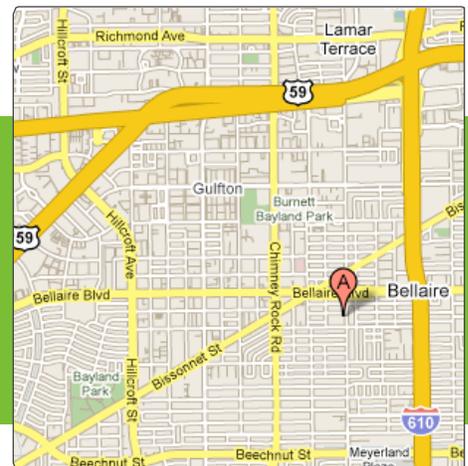


P.O. Box 570957
Houston, Texas 77257-0957

Meeting Location

Bellaire Civic Center
7008 South Rice Avenue
Bellaire, TX 77401

Just outside Loop 610 and
south of Bellaire Blvd.



Boss HAAUG Speaks

Monthly Address from the HAAUG President



Another month, another blockbuster Apple news report. As everyone knows Steve Jobs retired as Apple's CEO and became Apple's Chairman of the Board. In his resignation letter, he called on the board to follow the succession plan and appoint Tim Cook as CEO. The tech pundits had a field day, saying that this was either (a) no big deal, or (b) the end of the world.

I can count the ways that Job's vision has moved Apple from a struggling personal computer company to a consumer products juggernaut. The egg-shaped iMac brought new connection standards off the workbench and in to daily use. The iPod obliterated the competition in the mp3 player market. Apple's notebook computers have set the design standard for the industry. The iPhone and iPad revitalized the smart phone and portable computing markets. I think that it is safe to say that Apple led the way for wireless internet connections. Steve Jobs even made it cool to buy music off the internet.

Not everything worked, however. The G-4 Cube, the buttonless iPod Apple TV, Mobile Me, and a few other products were not the outstanding success that the company wanted. What everyone wants to know is, will Apple still be the company that stays on the bleeding edge? Will it be willing to keep those changes coming now that Jobs no longer has a direct say in what Apple does?

The most recent product revisions to Mac computers include a new port called Thunderbolt. How long will Apple keep the Firewire port and include optical drives in its machines? The original iMac did away with the floppy drive, even though the pundits of the day said that it was sacrilege. Software was already being distributed on CD at the time. As it turned out, the PC makers dropped the old soon after Apple. Boxed software will soon be a thing of the past as the iOS and Mac App stores take hold. Go to an Apple Store now and look at how few titles of boxed software are for sale on the shelves.

Many of us older users are having a hard time getting used to some of the new human interface aspects of Lion. But these will seem natural to the folks whose first interaction with a personal computer was an iPad. So, us older folks will need to get used to the new ways of doing things, and find ways that will be comfortable to us.

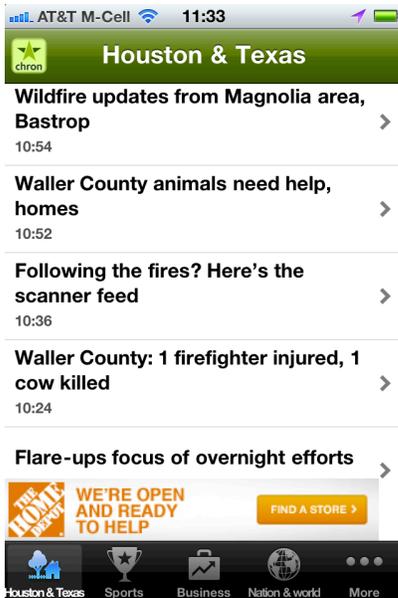
One final thought on Steve Jobs: thanks, Steve, for bringing Apple out of the intensive care unit and to full health. Please take care of yourself: Apple is in good hands.

Soon you should see a proposal for revisions to the HAAUG By-Laws, the main thrust is the reduction in the number of elected board members. Having a 16
(cont'd on p. 8)

Chron.com iPhone app

Ed Truitt, etee@me.com

Back in June, I wrote about the San Francisco Chronicle app for iPad. One of the things I noted was that this app was the basis for a future Houston Chronicle app (both papers being Hearst properties, it makes sense to re-use the app code, rather than creating a new app from scratch.)



So, I was very interested when I read that an [iPhone \(and Android\) app was available for Chron.com](#). However, as soon as I downloaded it, it was clear that this was *not* the long-awaited incarnation of the SF Chron's iPad app.

The appearance of the app is reminiscent of a "mobile" web site, with rotating ads being displayed at the bottom. The app settings allow you to customize which "sections" are visible in the footer (since taking the screen shot, I have updated mine to include the "Traffic" and "Staff blogs" in place of "Sports" and "Business.") While you are not able to make comments on articles directly from within the app, you do have the option of going to the "chron.com full site", where the comments are available. Comments are available, however, in the "Staff blogs" and "City Brights" sections. These appearance of these sections reminds me of the WPTouch theme for WordPress (if I recall, that theme, or a similar one, was being tested on Dwight Silverman's

TechBlog after the recent blogging platform change.) There are options to share the articles read via Facebook, Twitter, or email, as well as save the articles to Del.icio.us or Instapaper for reading later.

Prior to writing this, I attempted to use the app for a full week as my only means of accessing the Chron.com site, in order to try out all it had to offer. Unfortunately, I only lasted about a half of a day. The simple fact is that this app is nowhere near as feature-rich as the full web site. Also, some of the content available on the site (such as the columnists and the Op/Ed section) is not available in the app (except, of course, via the "full site" section.) I did find reading individual stories to be fairly easy within the app: in order to provide more screen real estate, the nav elements (including the "back arrow") move out of the way while reading. This can cause some confusion, as you appear to be "stuck" in a story: simply tap on the screen to bring the nav elements back into view.

So, is the app worth the download? Considering that it is free [on the iTunes app store](#), I would say "yes". It is useful for quickly checking some of the more popular content, including the current traffic conditions. It has more content available than does the Kindle edition of the Chronicle. And, there is always the full web site (minus, of course, any Flash animations) - even though accessing the full site can be somewhat challenging on a device the size of the iPhone. The app

QuickTip

Right click on the display in Calculator.app and select 'Large Type'. An overlay appears with the number in large type so you can see it easily. Simple, but cool.

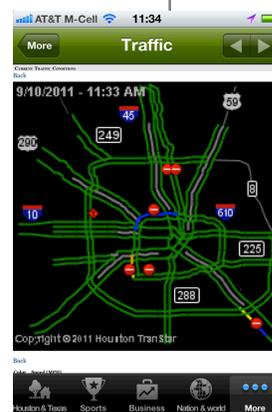


This works in the Lion version of Calculator.app. I don't know if it was there in earlier versions. It works just like the 'Show Large Type' feature for phone numbers in Address Book.

Here's some bonus Calculator.app trivia: Mac OS X 10.7's Calculator has 16 help pages.

[crarko adds: Also, when you right-click in Calculator the same pop-up menu gives you the option to change over to RPN if you prefer. I tried it in Snow Leopard and it's not there. It's always a nice touch when the older applications get some improvement.]

<http://hints.macworld.com/article.php?story=20110730233116739>



(cont'd on p. 8)

Find great specials online!

Special Offers for HAAUG Members via HAAUG Heaven

Check our forums for daily deals!

HAAUG discounts can be found on the HAAUG Heaven forums.

http://haaug.org/forums

The screenshot displays the HAAUG Heaven II forum website. The main header includes the HAAUG logo and the text "mac + houston Houston Area Apple Users Group Members Helping Members since 1978". Below this, the forum title "HAAUG Heaven II" is shown, along with a navigation menu (FAQ, Search, Memberlist, Usergroups, Register, Profile, Log in) and a timestamp: "The time now is Tue Feb 13, 2007 12:18 am".

The central part of the page features a "HAAUG Heaven II Forum Index" table with the following data:

Forum	Topics	Posts	Last Post
Houston Area Apple Users Group			
READ ME FIRST!! *How-To* instructions for HAAUG Members to register for forum access.	1	2	Sun Jul 16, 2006 7:21 pm Robert Lacey
HAAUG EVENTS This is an area for registered members to post information related to upcoming events hosted by HAAUG.	3	3	Fri Sep 15, 2006 11:45 pm Tamara Lewis
ANNOUNCEMENTS The area to post announcements about HAAUG or anything Apple related.	2	2	Wed Jan 10, 2007 7:46 am Joe Muscare
MEMBERSHIP Post information or questions related to HAAUG membership. Registering on these Forums is limited to members of the Houston Area Apple Users Group.	2	2	Sun Oct 16, 2005 9:43 am Robert Lacey
SOS Need help? Post your requests for assistance here with as much information as you can provide about your OS, hardware and software.	12	36	Wed Feb 07, 2007 10:54 pm Jack Reiter
CLASSIFIEDS Post hardware/software items that you have For Sale or make a request for Items Wanted. Spam posts will be deleted cheerfully.	6	8	Thu Nov 23, 2006 4:19 am Robert Lacey
INTERESTING WEBSITES Please use this forum to post URL's to websites that you have found to be interesting and/or useful. A brief description would be helpful.	4	4	Thu Aug 03, 2006 4:07 pm Joe Muscare

Below the index table is a "Who is Online" section with statistics: "Our users have posted a total of 122 articles. We have 36 registered users. The newest registered user is George Stroka. In total there is 1 user online: 0 Registered, 0 Hidden and 1 Guest. Most users ever online was 23 on Sat Aug 26, 2006 9:46 am. Registered Users: None." A "Log in" form is also visible.

NOTE: You must be a current registered HAAUG member to use these discounts.

Classifieds

Products and support for the Macintosh community

Got a story, or photo you would like to see in the monthly edition of the Apple Barrel?

The Apple Barrel is always looking for good, meaty material for its monthly publication. If you have a personal story, review of a new product or just a funny or helpful thought, feel free to spread the word via the Barrel.

Submit your story, review or photos, etc. to: abe@haaug.org



QuickTip

In some of Apple's Apps (I've tested Preview and Quicktime Player) holding Shift after launching them stops previous documents from reloading.

I've tested this launching from the Dock, the application icon in Finder or from LaunchPad. These all work (Launchpad also does the slow motion effect from holding down shift).

This doesn't seem to work if you use Alfred or Spotlight to search for and launch an application.

[crarko adds: While I'm sure this has been mentioned before, that last bit is news. I tried running TextEdit from Spotlight and sure enough, the Shift override does not apply. It's worth remembering if that's the way you launch applications.]

<http://hints.macworld.com/article.php?story=20110729023920898>

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Classifieds

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General Rate Policy

If more or less space than specified is used within one year from the date of first insertion, the rate will be adjusted to the earned rate published here.

Frequency Rates

Number of insertions in a 12-month period determines frequency rate.

Black and white rates (per issue):

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1/3 Page Ad

Dimensions: 7.625" x 3.375"

Frequency: 1X \$75, 2X \$70,
3X \$65

1/4 Page Ad

Dimensions: 3.75" x 5"

Frequency: 1X 65, 2X 60, 3X 55

1/6 Page Ad

Dimensions: 5" x 2.5"

Frequency: 1X \$40, 2X \$35,
3X \$30

Business Card Ad

Dimensions: 3.5" x 2"

Frequency: 1X \$30, 2X \$25,
3X \$15

* Dimensions of advertisements may vary as a result of document layout.

Minutes

HAAUG Board of Directors Meeting – Saturday, July 16, 2011

Location: Bellaire Civic Center, 7008 South Rice Avenue, Bellaire, Texas.

Attendees: Tamara Alexander, Philip Booth, Jim Connell, Michael Epstein, Clair Jaschke, David Jaschke, Michael King, Rick Roberts, Doug Smith, Ed Truitt, and Greg Wright.

Call to order: 12:12 p.m. by President Philip Booth, a quorum of voting members of the board being present.

General Announcements: Philip Booth thanked Clair Jaschke, David Jaschke and Greg Wright for helping him set up the meeting room at Bellaire Civic Center yesterday afternoon for today's Swap Meet.

MONTHLY REPORTS:

Secretary – Open: The minutes of the board meeting held on June 18, 2011, were unanimously approved as submitted.

Treasurer – Clair Jaschke: Clair Jaschke reported that HAAUG has more than \$10,000 in the bank and that all bills received have been paid. She has updated HAAUG's financial records through December 2010 and hopes to resume issuing financial statements to the board next month. She has still not received the \$300 check that the relatives of Irv Greenbaum donated to HAAUG after his death. Clair reported that IAPC claims the agreement for the old HAAUG Hotline required sixty days' notice to terminate the contract and has submitted a bill for less than \$200. The board approved paying the bill from IAPC as a final settlement of all claims for amounts due for termination of the old HAAUG Hotline number that IAPC administered.

1st Vice President – Programming – Greg Wright: Greg Wright reported that the topics reported last month for the Main Presentations at remaining General Meetings this year remain unchanged at this time. Dreux Ste. Marie may, however, appear at either the August or September General Meeting to review

Mac OS X 10.7 Lion. The October General Meeting may feature either Free-Form Movie Editing or a review of iOS 5 with Bob LeVitus.

- August 20: Mac OS X 10.7 Lion (available in the Mac App Store in July)
- September 17: GarageBand (presented by Doug Smith and Joe Muscara)
- October 15: Free-Form Movie Editing, or iOS 5 (presented by Bob LeVitus)
- November 19: Digital Camera Update (presented by Reagan Atkinson)
- December 17: Cutting the Cable, New Ways To Watch TV, Part 2

2nd Vice President Facilities – Doug Smith: No changes from last month's report. Philip Booth reminded the board that it has approved the payment of \$25 per month to the City of Bellaire for the use of the BCC's new overhead projector at General Meetings for the remainder of the year.

Membership – David Jaschke: David Jaschke reported that HAAUG had 178 members at the end of June 2011, a decline of one member from May 2011. HAAUG had 203 members at the end of June 2010. Last month two new members joined HAAUG and three members renewed their membership.

SIG Coordinator – Open: The board continued from last month discussing the feasibility of starting an iOS programming SIG, which might attract new members from a local outside group that is involved in programming for the iOS devices, and the possibility of inviting members from the outside group to make a presentation at one of HAAUG's meetings. Rick Roberts will discuss with the Digital Photography SIG leader the possibility of having a monthly photo gallery (either photographic prints or a digital slide show) at the General Meetings. Ed Truitt will determine whether the Houston Center for Photography would be interested in making a presentation to HAAUG.

(cont'd on p. 8)

Boss HAAUG...

(cont'd from Page 2)

member board and a 9 member quorum makes it hard to conduct business at times. Also, as I have written before, an organization of nearly 200 members does not need a 16 member Board of Directors - especially when a good portion of the positions are unfilled.

I am hoping, and will be working hard, to get new faces onto the board. It really is a lot of fun. That will be my goal for the remainder of my term.

I would like to thank Joe Muscara and Doug Smith for their demo of GarageBand. It is amazing what powerful tools are included with your Mac at no extra charge.

Thanks guys - you make HAAUG fun.

Chron.com...

(cont'd from Page 3)

is "compatible" with the iPad, but it is not optimized for the iPad.

Fortunately, Dwight confirmed that the iPad app (based on the one created for the SF Chronicle) is still in the works, and will be available at some time in the (hopefully near) future.

Minutes...

(cont'd from Page 7)

Apple Barrel Editor – Ed Truitt: The deadline for submitting articles for the August Apple Barrel is Saturday, August 6, 2011.

HAAUG Electronic Communications Systems - Ed Truitt: Philip Booth deferred discussion of this topic to Old Business below.

OLD BUSINESS:

Revision of the HAAUG By-Laws: David Jaschke presented a draft of revised By-Laws to the board. The draft provides for eight elected officers and one appointed officer. Five officers constitute a quorum for voting on matters at board meetings. David requested the board members, and in particular each current officer, to review the draft and the functions of the proposed officers. He proposes to publish the draft By-Laws in the September Apple Barrel and to submit the revised By-Laws to the membership for adoption at the October General Meeting, with the revised By-Laws being effective January 1, 2012.

Website Revision: Tamara Alexander and Ed Truitt presented a demonstration of two drafts (A and B) for the main page of the website that use WordPress and received comments from the board members. After discussion, the board unanimously approved adoption of Draft B of the main page. Tamara and Ed will continue developing the new website based upon Draft B. No date has been set for moving to the new design for the website, since time will be required to complete the coding for the main page and for pages and documents that are linked to it. The board thanked Tamara and Ed for their work.

Adjourned: 1:15 p.m.

Upcoming Events

Houston Area Apple Users Group 2010 Officers and Directors

President
Phil Booth

1st Vice President Programs
Greg Wright

2nd Vice President Facilities
Doug Smith

Secretary
Lyda McGhee

Treasurer
Clair Jaschke

Director-at-Large 1
Jim Connell

Director-at-Large 2
Michael Epstein

Director-at-Large 3
Michael King

Director-at-Large 4
Rick Roberts

Apple Barrel Editor
Ed Truitt

HAAUG Heaven Sysop
OPEN

Membership Chairman
David Jaschke

SIG Coordinator
OPEN

Immediate Past President
Matt Willmore

Boutique Manager
Barbara Long

Webmaster
Jeff Davis

HAAUG Hotline
Phil Booth

Mentor Program
- OPEN -

Publicity Chairman
Jim Connell

Vision Committee Chairman
Joe Fournet

Volunteer Coordinator
OPEN

Senior Advisor
OPEN

Apple User Group Liaison
Doug Smith

Saturday, October 15th, 2011

TBA

We have several topics "in the works" - check back to see which one was chosen!

Location: Bellaire Civic Center | Map online at www.haaug.org

Saturday, November 19th, 2011

Digital Camera Update

Presented by Reagan Atkinson from Houston Camera Exchange

Location: Bellaire Civic Center | Map online at www.haaug.org

Saturday, December 19th, 2011

Cutting the Cable

New Ways To Watch TV, Part 2

Location: Bellaire Civic Center | Map online at www.haaug.org

Saturday, January 21st, 2012

Semi-Annual Swap Meet

No presentation this day

Location: Bellaire Civic Center | Map online at www.haaug.org

Locations, Directions + Parking

Bellaire Civic Center

7008 South Rice Ave. • Bellaire, TX 77401

The Bellaire Civic Center has been a great location asset of HAAUG for the past 4 years and includes many amenities such as wireless internet and both open and closed spaces for Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings and other functions.

Find out the latest news on future HAAUG meetings...

www.haaug.org/meetings.htm

STARTRONICS

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Houston, Texas 77098

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September 2011 Event Schedule

	Main Room	2nd Room
9 a.m.		
10 a.m.	Mac 101	Digital Photography
11 a.m.	Club Business	
11:15 a.m.	Main Presentation: OS X Lion	
1 p.m.	Clean-up	Board of Directors meeting; followed by social time, and lunch

Note: due to the different start time, the **Mac 101 SIG** will only last 1 hour, and the **iOS SIG** will not meet this month.

Main Presentation: Dreux Ste. Marie gives us the skinny on Apple's newest "cat".

Mac 101 & Fundamentals: Jonathan Magnus* - The SIG for basic to advanced Macintosh topics.

Digital Photography: Andrew Polk – Bring your cameras, bring your photos and we'll discuss what makes a great photo.

Ad hoc: Groups are welcome to use the casual spaces to meet on other topics. Scheduled SIGs take precedence.

The HAAUG SIG Coordinator is currently open. If you would like to volunteer to be the SIG Coordinator, please see any member of the Board of Directors.

Got Junk?

Computer recycling opportunities in the Houston area

Houston area recycling centers:

Environmental Service Center

11500 South Post Oak Road • Dial 311 or 713-837-9130

Westpark Recycling Center

5900 Westpark • Dial 311 or 713-837-9130

Goodwill COMPUTER WORKS

12230 Westheimer
Houston, TX 77077
281-589-1215

Commercial electronics recyclers:

ScrapComputer.com

350 W. 38th St., Houston, TX 77018 • 713-691-9995

***Accepts all computer-related items free; offers free pickup for large amounts.*

Altech Metals, Inc.

10612 Hempstead, Building A • 713-680-9325

***No TVs or monitors*

ARM Trading, Inc.

2476 Bolsover, Suite 557 • 713-665-0213

Compucycle

620 W. 6th St. • 713-866-8021

ONYX Environmental Services

Baytown • 1-800-624-9302

Houston Computer Recycler

6102 Brittmoore, Suite N • 713-937-3334

Recycle America Waste Management Asset Recovery Group

2102 Atascocita Road, Humble • 281-540-8900

Eagle Electronics

10612 Hempstead, Building A • 713-934-8585

QuickTip



In iCal 5.0, which is included with Lion, you can navigate between dates, weeks, months, or years using a finger swipe left or right using an Apple Magic Mouse or Trackpad.

Click on the Day, Week, Month, or Year button. Navigate between dates, weeks, months, or years using a finger swipe left or right. The left or right swipes will advance or reverse the displayed calendar.

With the Magic Mouse use a single finger swipe, and on a Trackpad use a two-finger swipe (you must check 'Swipe between pages' in their respective Control Panels).

[**crarko adds:** When I tried this with the Magic Trackpad, I could only get it to work reliably in the Weekly calendar view, so your mileage may vary.]

<http://hints.macworld.com/article.php?story=20110905084920485>

[**Ed note:** I was able to get this to work in both the Daily and Weekly all the calendar views using my Magic Trackpad. The behavior is definitely NOT consistent. As crarko says, YMMV.]

Become Part of the Action

Join or renew your membership with the one and only Houston Area Apple Users Group today!

Join Online With a Credit Card:

Paying for your membership online with a credit card is secure, fast and easy!

Visit www.haaug.org/join for details on joining.

Join by Mail:

Please fill out and complete the following form. Send a check or money order payable to HAAUG and mail it to the address shown below. First year dues are \$45 and renewals are \$40 per year thereafter. Memberships are available for full-time students at \$25 per year, including the first year. Associate memberships are also available for \$25 per year.

Your membership card will be mailed to you. You may pick up your starter kit at the next HAAUG meeting.

First: _____ Last: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email: _____

Type Of Computer: _____

Membership:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Membership (\$45.00) | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal (\$40.00) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Early Renewal (\$35.00) | <input type="checkbox"/> Two Year Renewal (\$70.00) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Associate (\$25.00) | <input type="checkbox"/> Student (\$25.00) <i>Requires Student ID</i> |

Check # _____

Member # (if renewing): _____

How did you hear about HAAUG?

Do you know someone who would be interested in joining HAAUG? Y | N

Would you be willing to volunteer in HAAUG?

Mail check to:

HAAUG
P.O. Box 570957
Houston, TX 77257-0957
Attn.: Membership Chairman

Membership Benefits

Enjoy the benefits of being a HAAUG member.

Monthly Meetings

This is where the excitement begins. On the third Saturday of each month, members of HAAUG meet for a day filled with activities, including presentations by major software and hardware vendors, special interest group (SIG) meetings, public domain software libraries, raffles and much, much more. Swap Meets are held twice each year, in January and July.

Software Libraries

HAAUG maintains public domain and shareware libraries for the Apple II, Macintosh and Newton systems. HAAUG also distributes system software for the Macintosh (7.0.1 and earlier), Newton and all Apple II series computers. HAAUG has been designated by Apple Computer to be the Central United States Repository for Apple II Software.

Bulletin Board System & Internet Link

HAAUG Heaven is our 24-hour meeting place with several gigabytes of downloadable software, helpful information and discussions on all topics of computing, all accessible at rates from DSL speeds down to 33,600 bps.

HAAUG Heaven

HAAUG Heaven provides each member with an internet e-mail address allowing exchange of world-wide electronic mail. Many discussion topics and many internet newsgroups make the answers to your questions as close as your keyboard.

Club Magazine

Club and industry news, meeting information and special member offers are published in our monthly newsletter - The Apple Barrel. The Barrel's content is also available to members on HAAUG Heaven in Adobe Acrobat format.

Mentor Program

The HAAUG Mentor Program puts people with hardware, software, system or network problems in contact with volunteers who can provide solutions. Contact with the mentors can be made through the HAAUG Hotline, HAAUG Heaven, e-mail or at the monthly meetings.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

People with common interests, including Macintosh and OS X basics, Newton, iOS, internet, games, educational computing, databases, publishing, graphics, desktop video, programming and more gather for in-depth discussion, product demonstrations, tutorials and general knowledge sharing.

HAAUG Hotline

Call the HAAUG Hotline at 832-305-5999 for the latest meeting information and to leave voice mail for officers.

Lots of Fun & Friendships

HAAUG is a not-for-profit volunteer group founded in 1978, three years before there was an IBM PC. Approximately 300 members enjoy the benefits of HAAUG. We range from beginners to experts, but we all know the secret to making our computers more valuable - a HAAUG membership.

Learn more about the benefits of HAAUG membership at www.haaug.org.

The Apple Barrel is a monthly publication of the HOUSTON AREA APPLE USERS GROUP (HAAUG) P.O. Box 570957 Houston, Texas 77257-0957.

Apple Barrel's editors have a policy to protect the creative rights of authors. The Editors acknowledge that authors' works are copyrighted and intend to honor those copyrights by: 1) this statement of policy, 2) providing, when considered significant, copies of edited text to the author for review prior to publication, 3) seeking permission to reprint previously published pieces from the author whenever possible, and 4) printing acknowledgment of reprints used.

If you are interested in joining HAAUG, please call the HAAUG Hotline at **(832) 305-5999** or sign up via our web site at www.haaug.org.

Annual membership is \$45 for new members, \$40 for renewing members, \$25 for student members and \$25 for associate members (out-of-state members who receive the Apple Barrel through e-mail only). The Hotline is also the Mentor line if you need help. Guests are welcome to attend one or two meetings to get acquainted with HAAUG, but participation in certain presentations and activities may be limited to members only. HAAUG is an independent support group of Apple product users and is not affiliated with Apple Computer, Inc. The following are trademarks of Apple Computer, Inc., Apple, Apple II, Apple IIGS, eMac, Macintosh, iMac, iBook, iPod, iPhone, iPad, PowerBook, ImageWriter, LaserWriter and the Apple Logo. All other brand names mentioned are registered trademarks or trademarks of their respective holders, and are hereby acknowledged.

Ri Universal Remote Control

Product Review by Cassandra Franceschini



Upon receiving the Ri Universal Remote Control, an iPod Touch/iPhone add-on by Apptwee (<http://store.apptwee.com>), I decided to by pass asking my IT Analyst boyfriend and tried to give it a go myself. I am a 26 year old female whose profession is working as a Project Manager at a design firm specializing in websites. I find any tool that is efficient to be valuable in my professional and personal life.

When I first opened the package, I noticed that the directions were in a size 4 font- *very tiny* to read and I had to squint a few times just to read that all that I had to do was download the app and plug in the remote into my audio jack. When I took the Ri out of the package, I noticed that the cover for the Ri did not fit on top of the remote. I was a little disappointed to see that the product was not manufactured correctly.

When I downloaded the app and opened it, I decided to go ahead and watch the instructional video, which actually was very helpful. It was quick and insightful, which is important because most people tend to lose their attention for a video in 30 seconds. I first downloaded my Samsung TV and found it to be really helpful and easy. I then tried to download my cable via Comcast. It took me six tries to try and find the right cable application to use. The problem lies in that my cable box is made by Cisco but distributed by Comcast. So which company do I use in the list? I think it needs to be made clear which one you need to download for.

I finally found the right cable app and it honestly didn't seem to be as user friendly as the Comcast one that I am currently using. For example, there is no way to merge both my TV remote and my Cable remote, which is what my Comcast Universal Remote does. On my Ri app for my Comcast Cable remote, there is not even a volume button. Most surprisingly, the page up and page down buttons are on the next page and are separated on two different rows. Its my suggestion that the manufacturer re-evaluate how users really use their remotes, as I do not feel that most people use the guide or go through channel by channel. Most people use the guide and page up and down to view the listings. Therefore, the page up and down should probably be on the first page with many of the remotes condensed to a single page.

Overall, I found the Ri Universal Remote Control relatively quick to setup, easy to use and maneuver around. I found it a little frustrating to try and guess which company I had to use for my cable and also that the main buttons I use are not on the first page. My biggest complaint would probably be that this is not technically a universal remote in the sense that I have to switch between my TV and Cable remote on the Ri app versus just having the ability to have one remote that does both. The underlying question, would I purchase this product? I probably would in the sense that it makes a great gift and it does serve as a good back-up remote should you lose your remote. My advice, make it universal in the sense that I can control my TV and Cable on one remote like I can now.

The Ri Universal Remote Control runs around \$30 (found on Amazon for about \$20).